

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02833 280614Z

15/40

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 L-03 DHA-02 SSO-00 /024 W

----- 093078

O R 260914Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4081

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1.)

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (JACOBSON, BURTON AND LINDA)

SUBJECT: W/W BURTON AND LINDAN JACOBSON

1. ON JULY 24, 1975, AMCIT BURTON JACOBSON, MEMBER OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR TOUR GROUP, WAS REFUSED ENTRY TO JORDAN WHEN SEMINAR GROUP CROSSED FROM SYRIA TO RAMTHA. EXCLUSION APPARENTLY WAS BASED ON JORDANIAN BORDER AUTHORITIES' NOTING THAT LIST OF SEMINAR MEMBERS SHOWED JACOBSON'S RELIGION AS JEWISH. JACOBSON'S WIFE LINDA, AND MANSOUR BITAR, A LEBANESE NATIONAL WORKING WITH THE SEMINAR, DECIDED STAY WITH JACOBSON.

2. UPON BEING INFORMED OF JORDANIAN ACTION THE SYRIAN BORDER OFFICIALS THEN DETAINED ALL THREE, SENT THEM TO DAMASCUS AND PLACED THEM UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN HOTEL. ON JULY 25, THEY WERE QUESTIONED BY SECURITY POLICE AND THEN RELEASED. DETENTION AND QUESTIONING BY SYRIANS SEEMS BASED SOLELY ON SUSPICION CREATED BY JORDANIANS REFUSAL ADMIT JACOBSON. JACOBSON AND BITAR SAY THE SAME NAME LIST CITING HIS RELIGION AS JEWISH WAS SHOWN TO AUTHORITIES IN EGYPT AND UPON ENTRY TO SYRIA, WITHOUT PROBLEM.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02833 280614Z

3. SYRIAN MININFO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRANGING RETURN JULY 25 OF JACOBSON PASSPORT WHICH SYRIAN SECURITY POLICE HAD SAID WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS JULY 26.

4. EMBASSY HAS ASKED ASSISTANCE OF JORDANIAN CONSUL HERE IN HAVING JORDANIAN BORDER OFFICIALS INFORMED THAT JACOBSONS AND BITAR WILL AGAIN ATTEMPT ENTRY TO JORDAN IN AFTERNOON JULY 26. THE THREE WILL DEPART DAMASCUS UPON POSITIVE WORD FROM JORDANIAN, WHICH EXPECTED IN EARLY AFTERNOON.  
MURPHY

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NNN

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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